Hispanic Heritage Month 2022: Xbox Ambassadors Share Their Stories

Community Otter Sep 15, 2022

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month! The Xbox Ambassadors community is made up of a very diverse group of gamers from many parts of the world. We have always been all about amplifying and highlighting voices within our awesome community.

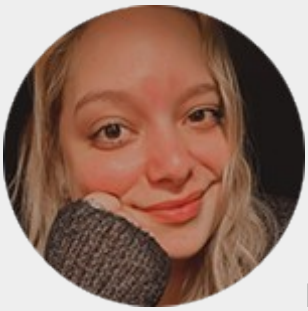
So, for this month, we asked Hispanic and Latin Ambassadors about the importance of representation in games and how it impacts their own experience being members of the gaming community.

Here are their stories in their own words:

Perfectsoccer98 *(She/Her)*
Mexican

Games featuring Hispanic characters have impacted me in an emotional way sometimes, because I can easily relate to their situation being Hispanic myself. They inspire me as well to be a proud Hispánica and to not be afraid to be myself in front if people. Gaming communities have positively impacted my experience as a gamer. I love making new friends and meeting

new people. The gaming community is so open and accepting no matter who you are.



Raitendo *(She/Her)*

I am Puertorican, island born!

Let's be honest- there aren't very many Hispanic characters in games unless you play *Overwatch* for Sombra, or you love a good horror game and had the chance to delve into that with Sebastian Castellanos in the *Evil Within* games. Hispanic heritage hasn't been represented much in the gaming industry but in the small pool there definitely are some notable ones. Luis in *Resident Evil 4* was one of my favorite comrades to blow some infected heads off with plus he added a special charm to the dialogue.

I'm a huge recluse and it takes a lot for me to come out my shell, so gaming communities like this along with forums since I was very young, and the occasional Discord banter with old and new online friends keeps me remembering how to "human" haha. It's good to have different spaces for different people to interact and be themselves without judgement.

Gafiltha *(He/Him)*
I am Half El Salvadorean and half Honduran

Jackie from *Cyberpunk 2077*. Up to this point in my life with gaming I haven't had too much influence Latin-wise but Jackie couldn't go more than 1 sentence without throwing in a Spanish word and it really made it feel comfortable for me as how I talk with my family, some would refer to as "Spanglish". When it came to his ***SPOILER ALERT*** funeral service, it was done in such a familiar way as I grew up surrounded by the culture. It made me remember those I have lost while feeling the impact in game and

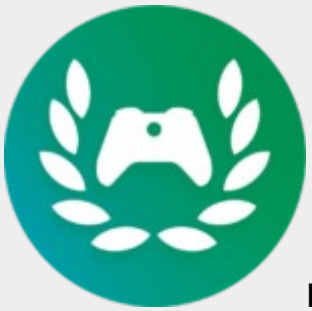
connecting those two with a unique service that Latin culture does versus a traditional funeral service.

If it was not for the Spanish language, I would not have built a fun community, United Guardians Federation, that is primarily 80% Latino and Spaniards are welcomed to discuss amongst us. We understand all the Latin parent references when gaming together having laughs and even add challenges to ourselves like doing Destiny raids in Spanish only. Having the sense of community and linking it to something personal to ourselves is what really builds a bond that has us calling each other family long after the match is over.

Albert X *(He/Him)*
Puerto Rican

Undoubtedly Hispanic characters have made a mark in my gaming trajectory. I will never forget Dominic Santiago and Kait Diaz from the *Gears* franchise. Most recently it gave me great pride to see Mexico featured in the most recent *Forza Horizon 5*. Additionally, I really enjoyed the *Far Cry 6* soundtrack where many artists from Puerto Rico are featured and the lead character even sings along to the songs while operating vehicles.

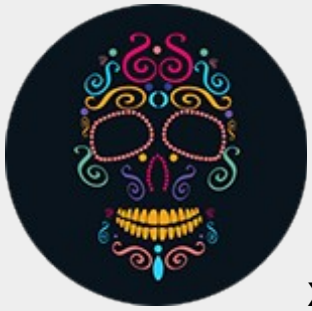
I founded Xbox Live Puerto Rico in 2010. 12 years later we are still going strong with a great team of Xbox Ambassadors administrators giving our local community great information, event coverage and assistance when needed. Our main goal right now is to get Puerto Rico included in the Xbox Rewards Program so our community members can enjoy their points and perks.



Pirovash88 *(He/Him)*
Mexican

It’s been huge and great to see Mexicans get more representation in video games. I think we have some way to go, but it’s greatly improved over the last few years. One of the first instances of great representation for me was when Sega introduced El Blaze into Virtua Fighter. Not a hugely popular franchise now, but it was massive when it happened back in 2006. I’ve always been a big Sega AM2 fan, so this was amazing to see.

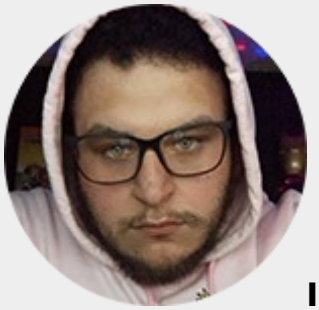
It’s been great to get to know other Xbox Ambassadors from different parts of the world. I’ve had fantastic experiences playing with folks from different walks of life and it’s honestly a humbling experience. They’ve opened my eyes to trying games that I otherwise probably wouldn’t have played.



XVenomDogZX *(He/Him)*
Mexican

I am proudly Mexican, and the character that I liked the most and I remember him fondly is Javier Escuella in *Red Dead Redemption 2*. It is an incredible feeling to see a character of Mexican origin in large productions and singing songs that are classics in my country as Cielito Lindo, it fills me with joy to see how Mexico is present in one way or another in a universe as extensive as video games are, either with a character, music or even cities as in the case of *Forza Horizon*.

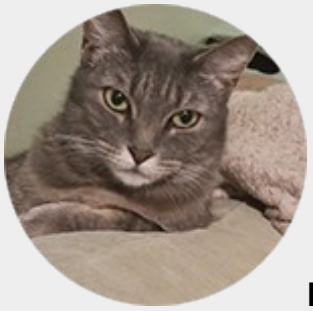
Communities have always been part of my life as a player. In them I have found great friends both from my country and from others. I have lived with people from all over the world and it is incredible to see the union that exists regardless of country, language or gender.



ID3ADPIXEL *(He/Him)*
I am Mexican

I don’t have any favorite Hispanic characters but I do have a story and it has to do with my older brother. He isn’t with us anymore; he passed away from cancer but he got me into *Halo.* I was 7 years old when I played Halo and my brother was the person that turned me into a gamer, he got me hooked on it and I will always be grateful that I always had the time to play with him. He was literally more of a father figure than an older brother even though I do live my dad.

I just had a really close relationship with him; we literally did everything together and when he passed away playing games was my happy place. I’m just grateful that he made me to the person I am today. You can say my brother is my favorite Hispanic character that impacted me. And when he passed away, the gaming community became my save haven. They made me a stronger person in life.



Nocturnn Owl *(He/Him)*
Mexican

As a Hispanic or Latino, I have always loved gaming; it has always been my getaway and when I play games with a latino or Hispanic character in it, it’s phenomenal. I really enjoyed *Far Cry 6* even though it took place in Cuba. A lot of Hispanic cultures have similarities that remind me of where I grew up in Mexico city- the music in the game really does bring nostalgia.

Gaming communities have had a big impact on my life. Growing up wasn’t easy for me and I always looked for a getaway to just escape for a while and gaming has always been there for me. I’m also noticing that a lot of companies are starting to include more and more Hispanics in their games and if rumors hold true, *Assassin’s Creed* will be exploring my culture in the next game with the Aztecs.